

REMARKS:

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 27, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 27, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-30 remain pending in the application upon entry of this response. Claims 1-10, 12-15 and 17-20 stand rejected. Claims 11 and 16 stand objected, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, according to the Examiner. Claims 29 and 30 have been added. Claim 29 recites claim 11 in independent form.

Claims 21-28 were added in a preliminary amendment filed on March 26, 2004, received by the Office on March 29, 2004, but were not entered before the Office Action. If claims 21-28 have not already been entered, then the Applicant request claims 21-28 to be entered upon entry of this response.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 15 and 17-20 stand rejected under judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 and 13-17 of United States Patent No. 6,656,288. Claims 3 and 20 stand rejected under judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of '288 in view of United States Patent No. 5,007,529. A terminal disclaimer compliant with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is attached along with this response. Accordingly, the Applicant respectively request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 8-10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated over <http://mouthshut.com/readreview/10138> (- 1 .html--May 2001), herein "Mouthshut.com." The Examiner asserts that *Mouthshut.com* discloses all features of the claimed invention. The Applicant respectively traverses the rejection.

Mouthshut.com discloses a process of placing a bowl of water in the microwave oven, boiling the water and subsequently wiping the microwave oven with a damp cloth. *Mouthshut.com* discloses, "you can use mild detergents," but remains silent to how the detergents are administered. *Mouthshut.com* does not teach, show or suggest an apparatus for cleaning an interior of a microwave oven comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation,

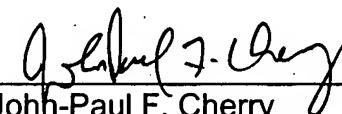
an outlet on the enclosure wherein the surfactant solution is in fluid communication to the interior of the microwave oven and a cleaning material for effecting a cleaning process, as cited in claim 8 and claims 9-10, 12 and 14 dependant thereon. Furthermore, *Mouthshut.com*, with a prior date of May 24, 2001, is not prior art to the present application that claims benefit to United States Provisional Application No. 60/225,709, filed August 16, 2000. The Applicant respectively requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mouthshut.com*. The Examiner asserts that *Mouthshut.com* discloses all features of the claimed invention except the surfactants having a concentration in a range from about 0.5% to about 50% and that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to select a surfactant within the aforementioned range. The Applicant respectively traverses the rejection.

Mouthshut.com has been distinguished above. Also, *Mouthshut.com* does not disclose combining "mild detergents" with "water in a microwave-safe glass container" to form a solution. *Mouthshut.com* does not teach, show or suggest an apparatus for cleaning an interior of a microwave oven comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation, an outlet on the enclosure wherein the surfactant solution is in fluid communication to the interior of the microwave oven and a cleaning material for effecting a cleaning process, as cited in claim 8 and claim 13 dependant thereon. Furthermore, *Mouthshut.com*, with a prior date of May 24, 2001, is not prior art to the present application that claims benefit to United States Provisional Application No. 60/225,709, filed August 16, 2000. The Applicant respectively requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show nor suggest claimed aspects of the invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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